

Mr. BOUSTANY. No.

The CHAIR. Or would the gentleman like a ruling on the point of order?

Mr. BOUSTANY. I would like a ruling on the point of order.

The CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds this amendment includes language imparting direction; namely, by requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit quarterly data to Congress.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Chairman, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Right here it says "waives all points of order against consideration of the bill."

Can I seek a clarification on this?

Clause 2(e) of rule XXI.

The CHAIR. The point of order was sustained under clause 2.

Mr. BOUSTANY. The base bill, right?

The CHAIR. 2(c) of rule XXI.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Thank you.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this act may be used to establish, maintain, employ, or enter into any contract or agreement with any organization, including a political party, that endorsed, embraced, or encouraged any form of slavery, nor to display the name of such organization nor to have its name displayed in any facility in which or for which funds made available in this act are used.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 736, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, it should be pretty straightforward. My friends on the other side of the aisle continue to push forward amendments that seem to want to leave the appearance that the Republican Party still wants to retain some fight that it has never had. The Republican Party opposed slavery. The Republican Party and everybody that I know of in this Chamber on this side of the aisle has never supported slavery, has never supported anything that wreaks of slavery.

Daniel Webster, John Quincy Adams, all of those early leaders in this country, had it very right—it is an abomi-

nation. It kept God from blessing this country.

I am surprised that anyone would wish to reserve a point of order to try to prevent this amendment from going forward. Anything, as my friends across the aisle have repeatedly pointed out, that reminds people of slavery is repugnant and is abhorrent, and I would think that that is something that we could all agree on.

If it is an organization that supported slavery, then why would we want to give that organization any more credence and cause those who may have lived through the vestiges of the civil rights problems that lasted after slavery?

It is time to put this to an end and let the dream of Dr. King finally come to fruition.

I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I must insist on my point of order.

The CHAIR. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part: "An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to speak to the point of order?

□ 0050

Mr. GOHMERT. I would address the point of order in that it really doesn't require any new act or law or activity. The thing should speak for itself unless my friend across the aisle has some concerns that some organization he wants to protect has supported slavery, and he is seeking to protect that. Otherwise, the law will speak for itself as does this amendment.

The CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination of whether an organization had "embraced" any form of slavery.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appeal the ruling of the Chair, but given the hour, the fact that there aren't that many of us here on the floor at this time, that it would require a quorum and would require under the rules an immediate vote, what I will do is withdraw my amendment at this time. I am assured that we will still be taking up limitation amendments in the morning, and I can offer it at that

time without dragging all of our friends out of their places of repose at this time.

The CHAIR. The amendment has been ruled out of order. The appeal is withdrawn.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PERRY) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4974) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SWALWELL of California (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family health emergency.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2840. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4923. An Act to establish a process for the submission and consideration of petitions for temporary duty suspensions and reductions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4957. An Act to designate the Federal building located at 99 New York Avenue, N.E., in the District of Columbia as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building".

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1492. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska.

S. 2143. An act to provide for the authority for the successors and assigns of the Starr-Camargo Bridge Company to maintain and operate a toll bridge across the Rio Grande near Rio Grande City, Texas, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 56 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until today, Thursday, May 19, 2016, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5361. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter reporting multiple violations of the Antideficiency Act, Army case number 12-07, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258; (96 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Appropriations.

5362. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the annual Reserve Component Equipment Report for fiscal year 2017, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 10543(c); Public Law 104-201, Sec. 1257(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 112-81, Sec. 1064(11)); (125 Stat. 1587); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5363. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Report for Fiscal Year 2017, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 10541(a); Public Law 101-510, Sec. 1483(a) (as amended by Public Law 112-81, Sec. 1070); (125 Stat. 1592); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5364. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 114th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5365. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Budget Material Corrosion Reports for FY 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5366. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, transmitting the report on Securing the United States Power Grid as required by House Report 113-486; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5367. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Requirements for the Submission of Data Needed To Calculate User Fees for Domestic Manufacturers and Importers of Cigars and Pipe Tobacco [Docket No.: FDA-2012-N-0920] (RIN: 0910-AG81) received May 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5368. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Antimicrobial Animal Drug Sales and Distribution Reporting [Docket No.: FDA-2012-N-0447] (RIN: 0910-AG45) received May 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5369. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled "United States Tobacco Product Exports That Do

Not Conform to Tobacco Product Standards", pursuant to Sec. 801(p)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5370. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Secretary's determination that five countries are not cooperating fully with U.S. antiterrorism efforts: Eritrea, Iran, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Syria, and Venezuela, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2781(b); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 40A (as added Public Law 104-132, Sec. 330); (110 Stat. 1258); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5371. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination and certification to waive for a period of six months the restrictions of Sec. 1003 of Public Law 100-204, pursuant to Public Law 114-113, Sec. 7041(j)(2)(B)(i); (129 Stat. 2780); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5372. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's intent to sign a Project Agreement between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Ministry of Defense of the State of Israel, Transmittal No. 14-16, pursuant to Sec. 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 13637; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5373. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's intent to sign the AEGIS Combat System Project Agreement No. Three between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Spain, Transmittal No. 11-16, pursuant to Sec. 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act, and Executive Order 13637; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5374. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Office of the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's intent to sign a Project Arrangement Between the Department of Defense of Australia and the Department of Defense of the United States of America, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 27(f) (as amended by Public Law 113-27 6, Sec. 208(a)(4)); (128 Stat. 2993); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5375. A letter from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting the thirty-first quarterly report to Congress on Afghanistan Reconstruction, in accordance with Sec. 1229 of Public Law 110-181; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5376. A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's semiannual report for the period of October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5377. A letter from the Sr. VP, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Potomac Electric Power Company, transmitting the Balance Sheet of Potomac Electric Power Company as of December 31, 2015, pursuant to D.C. Code Ann. Sec. 34-1113 (2001); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5378. A letter from the Inspector General, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting the Management Advisory Report — Procurement Process Review, Report No. 16-CAO-05; to the Committee on House Administration.

5379. A letter from the Director, Office of Financial Management, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the Statement of Disbursements for the United States Capitol Police for the period of October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1910(a); Public Law 109-55, Sec. 1005; (119 Stat. 575) (H. Doc. No. 114—136); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

5380. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a follow up letter regarding Puerto Rico's debt crisis; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5381. A letter from the Controller, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, transmitting the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015, pursuant to Public Law 88-504; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5382. A letter from the Staff Director, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting a report on the compliance of the federal district courts with the documentation submission requirements, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(w)(3); Public Law 98-473, Sec. 217(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-21, Sec. 401); (117 Stat. 672); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5383. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled "Regarding the Incidental Capture of Sea Turtles in Commercial Shrimping Operations", pursuant to Public Law 101-162, Sec. 609(b)(2); (103 Stat. 1038); jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Appropriations.

5384. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summary presentation of final rules — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-88; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR 2016-0051, Sequence No.: 2] received May 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and Science, Space, and Technology.

5385. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: High Global Warming Potential Hydrofluorocarbons [FAC 2005-88; FAR Case 2014-026; Item I; Docket No.: 2014-0026; Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AM87) received May 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and Science, Space, and Technology.

5386. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Simplified Acquisition Threshold for Overseas Acquisitions in Support of Humanitarian or Peacekeeping Operations [FAC 2005-88; FAR Case 2015-020; Item II; Docket No.: 2015-0020; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 9000-AN09) received May 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and Science, Space, and Technology.

5387. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Basic Safeguarding of Contractor Information Systems [FAC 2005-88; FAR Case 2011-020; Item III; Docket No.: 2011-0020, Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 9000-AM19) received May 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec.